

NEVADA Connections

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CCSN & WNCC educators deliver aid to Nicaragua

Editor's Note: Cynthia Pierrott, assistant coordinator at CCSN, and her father Luis Pierrott, technical preparatory coordinator at WNCC, spent last Christmas continuing a unique project that is all about giving. Here is their story — a heartwarming version of "What I Did on my Christmas Vacation," in Cynthia's words.

Ten members of my family and I went to Nicaragua to provide aid to needy families in the country's rural areas. The aid package included five pounds each of rice, beans, sugar, and flour; one pound of salt; oatmeal; dry soup; coffee; cooking oil; a five-pound frozen chicken; and toilet paper.

My family is originally from Nicaragua, so family members who still live there helped us determine where the packages were going to be distributed. Nicaraguan friends lent us their trucks to deliver the packages to the various remote communities.

Because of the large quantity of people in some of these communities, we could not give every family a package. We decided to give the packages to the larger families, then to those who were sick, and finally to the elderly. As we gave people the packages, we explained that we were a group from the United States who got together to provide them this gift for Christmas. The families that received the packages were so grateful for the help from their "American Friends."

My father, Luis Pierrott, and an uncle in Nicaragua initiated this project after the devastation of Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Much of the aid sent from the States was not being distributed to those who really needed it. My father spoke to various relatives in and around the Carson City area to see if they would be willing to help with monetary donations to provide aid to the victims.

We started off by only being able to help a small number of families. In 1999, twenty-five packages were given; in 2000, thirty-five; in 2001, forty-five; and in 2002, seventy. This year we were able to help 265 families, thanks to the donations we received from co-workers, friends, and people throughout Nevada and California. We hope that in the years to come we will be able to extend the area of support and the numbers of families to whom we provide assistance.

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Cynthia Pierrott (at right) with one of the basket recipients in Jinotega, Nicaragua

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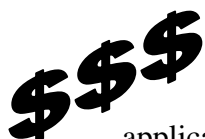
“Voyage of Discovery — The Journey of Adult Learning” is the theme for the 62nd MPAEA (Mountain Plains Adult Education Association) Conference to be held April 29 – May 1, 2004 in Bozeman, Montana. The conference schedule includes two outstanding keynote speakers:

- On Thursday, Lennox McLendon, Executive Director of the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium, will speak about program improvement and complying with the regulations of the Workforce Investment Act.
- On Friday, Minnesotan Kim Ratz, “the speaker who sings,” will talk and sing about “How to Thrive in a Radically Changing World.” Information: www.mpaea.org

MPAEA scholarships still available

MPAEA is a collaboration of eight western states — Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. The organization offers three scholarships each year, all with an application deadline of March 1. You may download the applications from MPAEA's Web site: www.mpaea.org, click on “Information,” then on ‘Scholarship Information’.

Professional Development Scholarship (up to \$500)



Purpose: To provide funds to attend conferences or other staff development activities during the MPAEA year (from beginning of the annual conference through the conference of the following year). Applicant must be a current member or submit a membership application when applying. One scholarship is awarded for each member state of MPAEA.

Scholarship for Innovation (up to \$1,000)



Purpose: To foster innovative approaches to adult education and develop new models that have the potential for replication in other adult and continuing education programs in the Mountain Plains area. Applicant must be a member of MPAEA at least since the previous year's conference or be sponsored by a member.

Memorial Scholarship (up to \$1,000)



Purpose: To fund tuition, books, and/or school related expenses for a graduate student enrolled in a graduate degree program in adult education or a closely related field in a college or university in one of the Mountain Plains states. Applicant must be a member of MPAEA at least since the previous year's conference or be sponsored by a member.

Additional spring conferences

March 7-9. National Association for Adults with Special Learning Needs (NAASLN) Conference. Tampa, FL. Contact: 800/496-9222; www.naasln.org

March 29-April 3. Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference. Long Beach, CA. Contact: 703/836-0774; conventions@tesol.org; www.tesol.org

April 24-28. Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Conference. Columbus, OH. Contact: 866/996-2223; info@coabe04.org; www.coabe04.org

My joy in learning is partly that it enables me to teach. —*Seneca*

CCSN's multi-faceted Marie Voelker

“Smiling, cheerful, energetic, and with a wide and varied background” is an accurate — and understated — description of CCSN's Marie Voelker. Born in Germany to Hungarian parents, Marie immigrated through Ellis Island at the age of four, when she began learning English, her third language.

“I like to try new things to see what I can make work,” she said. (Another understatement!) She's been an entrepreneur, with a photography studio (in Buffalo, New York) and (in Las Vegas) a custom-made cornice business and an automobile transport company. She's also been a “bureaucrat,” serving for 22 years as a correction officer at the Clark County Detention Center (CCDC), and a politician — one of 17 who ran for Sheriff in 1983.



At CCDC, Marie researched, developed, and implemented many programs, policies, and procedures. She was responsible for the Deadbeat Dad and the Outside Work programs for inmates, and she spearheaded a Community Payback project, as well. She began her work in adult education during her last four years at CCDC, when she implemented or expanded programs in anger management, addiction, coping skills, parenting, relationships, effective choices, life skills, and GED. She met Terri Kaulentis, CCSN's ABE Program Director, in the course of that work and when she retired, Terri convinced her to — not retire.

For the past two years, Marie has applied her many skills to the varied demands of the state's largest AEFLA-funded program. She assists Terri in many aspects, coordinates the GED program at the City of Las Vegas' Lied Community School, and proactively jumps in to help all the coordinators at CCSN.

She and husband Harold have six “kids:” dogs Korki and Nemo, Smokey the cat, quarter horse Jay-k, and two adopted mustangs from the Nevada Range, Bootz and Jet. Her dream is to open an animal refuge.

“I know no boundaries,” Marie once admitted. For CCSN staff and students and for her animals, that's a good thing!

Four more southern Nevada adult educators earn ABE Certificate of Performance

Four instructors recently submitted evidence of student outcomes and were awarded their ABE Certificates of Performance. Kudos to:

- Midena M. Sas and Patricia Morello, from the C.A.L.L. program and
- Jaquelyn B. Taylor and Jennifer A. Lamison, from the Community College of Southern Nevada.

For more information on Nevada's unique, outcome-based recognition program, contact Sharyn Yanoshak, 702/253-6280, saylv@cox.net or visit <http://www.literacynet.org/nvabecp/>



Teachers, who educate children, deserve more honor than parents,
who merely gave them birth; for the latter provided mere life,
while the former ensure a good life. —*Aristotle*

Connecting resources for Nevada's adult workforce

Free workshops in February and March — close to home!

Professional development opportunities abound throughout the state during the next two months, with “Teaching in Multi-level Classes” offered in Reno, Las Vegas, and Elko; “Goal Setting and Retention” in Carson City; and the last two sessions of “Bridges to Practice,” our learning disabilities training, in Elko. All adult educators in Nevada are welcome to attend these trainings, but space is limited, so call early to reserve your seat.

Successful completion of these workshops, which includes any assigned follow-up activities, provides .5 credit toward renewal of the ABE Certificate of Performance.

<u>Title/date/place</u>	<u>Host (contact)</u>	<u>Presenter and objectives</u>
Teaching in Multi-level Classes 2/20/04, Reno	Claudia Bianca-DeBay Truckee Meadows Comm. Coll. 775/824-8604, cdebay@tmcc.edu	Tünde Csepelyi. Understand the rationale and identify different strategies in teaching multilevel classes. Walk away with the tools and resources to teach them with confidence.
Bridges to Practice - Elko Part 3: 2/13/04 Part 4 2/27/04	Presenter & Contact: Jennifer Miller, Great Basin College, 775/778-3355, miller14@gbcnv.edu The Planning Process: Prepare to develop the instructional plan. Develop the instructional plan. Select materials to implement the instructional plan. The Teaching/Learning Process: Meet the challenge of teaching adults with learning disabilities. Create an appropriate learning environment with instructional adaptations and accommodations. Learn LD-appropriate instruction techniques and methods.	
Teaching in Multi-level Classes 2/28/04 Las Vegas 3/5/04 Elko	Cynthia Pierrott Comm. Coll. of Southern Nevada 702/651-4296 cynthia_pierrot@ccsn.nevada.edu Meachell Lasalle Great Basin College; 775/753-2109, meachell@gbcnv.edu	Tünde Csepelyi. Understand the rationale and identify different strategies in teaching multilevel classes. Walk away with the tools and resources to teach them with confidence.
Goal Setting and Retention 3/20/04 Carson City	Teri Zutter Western NV Comm. Coll. 775/445-4451 tzutter@wncc.nevada.edu	Janell Baker. Familiarize teachers with the NRS requirements for student goal-setting. Give teachers the tools and resources to help students set realistic goals. Assist teachers in getting their students involved in their own academic planning and in monitoring their goals.